

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 6, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 3, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1505

Introduced by Assembly Member Pan

(Principal coauthor: Senator Kehoe)

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Allen, Atkins, Fletcher, and Hill,
and Williams)**

(Coauthor: Senator Lieu)

January 11, 2012

An act to add Section ~~711~~ *711.1* to the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1505, as amended, Pan. Department of Veterans Affairs: veterans' benefits: reinstatement.

Existing law establishes the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is responsible for administering various programs and services for the benefit of veterans.

This bill would provide that if the federal government acts to reinstate benefits to discharged veterans, as specified, who were denied those benefits solely on the basis of sexual orientation pursuant to any federal policy prohibiting homosexual personnel from serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, the state shall reinstate to those veterans any state-offered benefits, as provided.

This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide Internet resources, Internet links, and print materials, as provided,

regarding, *or created by*, veterans' legal services organizations that specialize in military discharge upgrades.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to extend fair and equal
4 treatment with regard to the administration of veterans' services
5 and programs to California's veteran population regardless of
6 sexual orientation.

7 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to respond to any federal
8 reinstatement of benefits for discharged veterans, regardless of
9 their discharge status, who were denied those benefits because of
10 any federal policy prohibiting homosexual personnel from serving
11 in the United States Armed Forces, by reinstating state-offered
12 benefits for the same veterans.

13 SEC. 2. Section ~~711~~ 711.1 is added to the Military and Veterans
14 Code, to read:

15 ~~711.~~

16 711.1. (a) If the federal government acts to reinstate benefits
17 to discharged veterans, regardless of their discharge classification,
18 who were denied those benefits solely on the basis of sexual
19 orientation pursuant to any federal policy prohibiting homosexual
20 personnel from serving in the Armed Forces of the United States,
21 the state shall reinstate to those veterans any state-offered benefits
22 they were denied due to those federal policies.

23 (b) To the extent practicable, the department shall do the
24 following:

25 (1) On the department's Internet Web site, provide Internet
26 resources or links to Internet resources that provide information
27 regarding veterans' legal services organizations that specialize in
28 military discharge upgrades.

29 (2) In the department's offices and walk-in locations, provide
30 printed resources, to the extent available, created by veterans' legal

- 1 services organizations that specialize in military discharge
- 2 upgrades.

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